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## Adm. Turner, An Improvement

The general public does not know much about Adm. Stansfield Turner yet. But it is not necessary to know very much to feel that President Jimmy Carter's selection of Adm. Turner to head the ~~Central Intelligence Agency~~ is far superior to the earlier choice of Ted Sorensen, who withdrew under deserved fire.

Mr. Sorensen was a conscientious objector to military service during the Korean War, not a dishonorable view if honestly held, but hardly a qualification for the intelligence job that is our "first line of defense" against Communist attack. Mr. Sorensen was soft in judgment, a supporter of dishonorable subverters of American policy, an apologist for the misuse of secret government materials by others and himself.

Adm. Turner has none of these flaws. He was an outstanding member of the Naval Academy class in which President Carter was a member, though the President says he

did not really know Adm. Turner well at that time. The admiral is a former Rhodes scholar, a man who has commanded ships and held other responsible posts.

It is not known what special qualifications he might have in relation to the vital technical aspects of intelligence work. But he does have a reputation as a good administrator.

In Senate hearings, we will learn more about Adm. Turner, surely. But from what is known, it seems unlikely that he will have an unrealistic attitude toward the Soviet threat or that he would be easily fooled about the seriousness of the business to which he will be assigned.

The choice of Adm. Turner seems to be quite an improvement. The post that he expects to hold is one about which most of us will know relatively little, but which may mean the difference between preservation of freedom and a steady decline toward slavery.